

SILVER COIN IN THE TREASURY.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

RELATIVE TO

The amount of silver coin on hand and the facilities for its safe-keeping in the sub-treasury offices.

JANUARY 27, 1883.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 26, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed copies of communications relative to the amount of silver coin on hand and the facilities for its safe-keeping in the sub-treasury offices, showing the urgent necessity for providing additional vault room at once for storing silver, or for discontinuing the coinage of the standard silver dollar.

Since the act passed February 28, 1878, authorizing the coinage of the standard silver dollar, new vaults have been built expressly for storing silver at the following-named offices:

Year 1878:

New York sub-treasury, at a cost of.....	\$38,687 25
San Francisco sub-treasury, at a cost of.....	17,059 77
Philadelphia sub-treasury, at a cost of.....	8,268 18

Year 1880:

San Francisco mint, at a cost of.....	9,346 08
Baltimore sub-treasury, at a cost of.....	8,268 18
Philadelphia mint, at a cost of.....	6,985 52

Year 1882:

San Francisco mint, at a cost of.....	10,000 00
San Francisco sub-treasury, at a cost of.....	6,985 52

These vaults are now practically filled; some of them to their utmost capacity.

Under the law there must be coined at the mints at least \$2,000,000 worth of standard silver dollars monthly, and unless the law is repealed before Congress adjourns this session, provision must be made for the storage of this year's coinage, say \$27,000,000, less the amount put in circulation.

The increase in the circulation of standard silver dollars between No-

250
Mint

vember 1, 1881, and November 1, 1882, was less than a million and a half of dollars; the amount coined during the same time was \$27,772,075.

The office of the assistant treasurer at Cincinnati is in a building owned by the government, but it has been sold, to be delivered as soon as the new building is completed. For this reason and on account of the small amount of space available, no additional vault was built, and there has been transferred from that office to other sub-treasury offices, from time to time, to relieve the vaults, since February 28, 1878, the sum of \$3,827,780, in silver.

The office of the assistant treasurer at Saint Louis is in a rented building, and in addition to the vaults of the office available for use there has been rented from the Safe Deposit Company in that city a large vault exclusively for storage of standard silver dollars, at a cost of \$1,750 per annum.

But the most serious difficulty will be experienced in affording relief to the San Francisco sub-treasury. The amount reported on hand January 11, 1883, was in standard silver dollars, \$14,414,000; fractional silver, \$7,374,606.43; total silver, \$21,788,606.43, or about 628 tons. Both new vaults built for the purpose are now about full, and the assistant treasurer reports that there is no further space available in his office for building another vault. The only relief, therefore, that can be given is to transfer to some sub-treasury in the East, at a cost of \$10,000 for transportation of each million transferred. There is not sufficient appropriation available for the payment of the transportation of the amount required to be transferred in order to properly relieve that office, nor are the sub-treasury offices in the East in a condition to receive that amount, as shown by the accompanying reports of the several offices:

Amount in the Treasury January 1, 1883:	
Standard silver dollars.....	\$94, 016, 842 00
Fractional silver.....	26, 521, 692 20
Total silver.....	120, 538, 534 20
or about 3,500 tons.	

In view of the facts stated above and the reports herewith, it is apparent that this Congress should either discontinue the coinage of the standard silver dollars, or make suitable appropriations for building additional vaults in the East, and for the transportation of silver coin from San Francisco, no further space being available for building another vault at that point. The lowest rate for transportation of silver from San Francisco obtainable is \$10 per thousand dollars.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

Hon. J. W. KEIFER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

[Inclosures.]

Copy of letter, dated December 5, 1882, from assistant treasurer, New York, to United States Treasurer.

Copy of letter, dated January 16, 1883, from assistant treasurer, New York, to United States Treasurer.

Copy of letter, dated January 22, 1883, from assistant treasurer, Boston, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 22, 1883, from assistant treasurer, Philadelphia, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 22, 1883, from assistant treasurer, Baltimore, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 17, 1883, from assistant treasurer, Cincinnati, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 24, 1883, from United States Treasurer to Secretary of the Treasury.

Extract copy of report, dated January 22, 1883, of H. A. Whitney, on examination of assistant treasurer's office at Chicago.

Copy of letter, dated January 20, 1883, from assistant treasurer, New Orleans, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 13, 1883, from assistant treasurer, San Francisco, to Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy of letter, dated January 25, 1883, from United States Treasurer to Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
New York, December 5, 1882.

SIR: I desire to call your attention to the limited space remaining in our silver vault for storage of silver dollars.

Deposits by the Fourth National Bank of about \$1,700,000, since the 15th October, have absorbed all but a sufficient capacity for about \$1,000,000, which will be required in a comparatively short time for our daily receipts of that denomination of coin. In order to accommodate any further large amount, it will be necessary to include two denominations of silver in the same compartment. This arrangement would be objectionable to the customs officers in making the monthly examinations.

Very respectfully,

THOS. C. ACTON,
Assistant Treasurer.

HON. JAMES GILFILLAN.

DECEMBER 7, 1882.

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

JAS. GILFILLAN,
Treas'r United States.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
New York, January 16, 1883.

SIR: I desire to ask your attention to the rapid filling of my silver vault, more particularly in connection with the deposit of standard silver dollars, of which this instance may be given:

During the past three months, the Fourth National Bank, of this city, has deposited upwards of 2,000,000 standard dollars for silver certificates. They have the original deposit made in Boston, and receive the dollars from the Philadelphia mint, depositing them here, and, of course, practically remitting silver certificates, from Boston to this city, free of charge. This method is in accordance with the provisions of your circular, governing the issue of silver dollars, &c.; but, in the case of the bank mentioned, the *circulation of the silver coin is not promoted*, and the silver vault of this office is about as full as is consistent with necessary facilities for the daily business of this office, amounting in silver coin (fractional) to some \$30,000, or upwards, in addition to a varying amount of standard dollars.

Very respectfully,

THOS. C. ACTON,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

HON. the TREASURER UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
Boston, Mass., January 22, 1883.

SIR: Responding to your telegram asking "what further amount of silver can conveniently be stored in the vaults of this office," I am compelled to report, these vaults are now carrying all that can well be accommodated, both as to their storage capacity and to the amount of dead weight that may with safety be placed upon the supporting columns upon which they stand.

Respectfully,

M. P. KENNARD,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SILVER COIN IN THE TREASURY.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, Pa., January 22, 1883.

SIR: In answer to your telegram of this date requesting report by letter as to what further amount of silver coin can conveniently be stored in the vaults of this office, I beg to say that there is no more space available in the vaults on the main floor or in the cellar.

A million dollars might be stored in some of the vaults on the second story, used for the storage of minor coins, but these are not so secure as the lower vaults; not being lined with metal, and having rather indifferent doors and locks.

Standard dollars are increasing with us at the rate of about \$50,000 a week.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. EYSTER,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

Hon. CHARLES J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
Baltimore, Md., January 22, 1883.

SIR: In reply to telegram just received from Mr. New, Assistant Secretary, asking what further amount of silver coin can be conveniently stored in the vaults of this office, I report that there is room for two millions at least—probably two and a half millions more. If two millions should be sent in, I can then tell more exactly the capacity of the surplus space.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS M. DARBY,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

Hon. CHARLES J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
Cincinnati, Ohio, January 17, 1883.

SIR: The vault of this office is again filled to its utmost capacity, and I would respectfully ask that a portion of the amount of silver standard dollars on hand be removed. The amount on hand at the close of business last evening (16th instant) was \$1,391,000. The receipts to-day, together with advices of shipments, will amount to at least \$26,000, and I would ask that a transfer order be drawn as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

L. MARKBREIT,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, January 24, 1883.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal inquiry I have the honor to state that there has been transferred from the sub-treasury at Cincinnati, Ohio, because there was lack of vault room at that point for the storage thereof, silver coin amounting to \$3,827,780, since February 28, 1878.

Of this amount \$1,627,780 was in fractional silver coin, and \$2,200,000 in standard silver dollars.

Very respectfully,

JAS. GILFILLAN,
Treasurer United States.

Hon. CHARLES J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION,
CUSTOM-HOUSE, &C., NEW ORLEANS,
November 7, 1882.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, I have to respectfully advise you that in my opinion your vault in the general business room is loaded beyond the point

of prudence. I have requested the Supervising Architect to furnish me details of the construction of the floor supporting that load from which to make my calculations of capacity for sustaining the present or a greater load. I recommend that you do not add to the present load until the result of those calculations is ascertained.

The vault in your office in my opinion cannot be overloaded unless there exist defects in the foundation and supporting walls, and from appearances you will be warranted in loading it to its utmost capacity.

I have the honor to remain your most obedient servant,

JOHN W. GLENN,
Superintendent.

Hon. BENJ. F. FLANDERS,
Assistant Treasurer United States, New Orleans, La.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
New Orleans, La., November 11, 1882.

SIR: Your attention is respectfully called to the inclosed letter of Colonel Glenn, which explains itself. The vault referred to is that used for the storage of standard silver dollars, under authority of your letter of March 7, 1882. That vault is two-thirds full, and the one in this office is being rapidly filled with standard silver dollars brought from the mint on telegraphic orders, for exchange in silver certificates, and from other sources.

Should the inflow of coin continue, additional vault room will soon be required. I shall put no more weight in the custom-house vault, unless Colonel Glenn, upon further investigation, reports that it is safe to do so.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. F. FLANDERS,
United States Assistant Treasurer.

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
December 5, 1882.

SIR: Referring to your letters, with inclosures of the 7th ultimo, and 1st instant, relating to the capacity of floor of vault in northeast corner of the business room in the building under your charge, I have to request you to advise the assistant treasurer, in reply to his letter of November 6, that it is not thought prudent to increase the weight of silver stored in that vault beyond the present load, stated in his letter as being 90 tons.

Very respectfully,

JAS. G. HILL,
Supervising Architect.

Mr. JOHN W. GLENN,
Superintendent of Repairs, Custom-House and Post-Office, New Orleans, La.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
New Orleans, La., December 8, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Supervising Architect to Mr. J. W. Glenn, superintendent custom-house, New Orleans, which confirms the doubt expressed in my letter of the 11th ultimo as to the safety of adding to the weight now stored in the vault in question.

The amount in my own vault has been increased \$800,000 since writing that letter, \$300,000 of which has been received during the last five days. There is hardly room to store an additional \$800,000, and I take occasion to renew my request that provision be made to accommodate any silver presented in excess of the above limit.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. F. FLANDERS,
United States Assistant Treasurer.

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury; Washington, D. C.

SILVER COIN IN THE TREASURY.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
New Orleans, La., January 20, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at the present rate of daily receipts of standard silver dollars the vault will be full in about a week, and to request that you will please order the transfer of a portion of the coin to the mint.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. F. FLANDERS,
United States Assistant Treasurer.

HON. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

[Extract—copy.]

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, January 22, 1883.

SIR: Under instructions contained in your letter of January 6, 1883, I proceeded to Chicago, Ill., arriving there on the morning of the 8th, and at the office of the assistant treasurer before office hours.

The vault in the Chicago office has safe and convenient accommodation for about 4,000 bags of silver, and yet at the present time it has in it nearly 6,000, much of it being piled on the floor outside of the compartments, with nothing to keep the bags in position except their own weight. Silver stacked in this way is unsafe to those who have occasion to go into the vault, as was proved in my recent experience there. When I took charge of the office for examination, I found every compartment full and between 1,000 and 2,000 bags piled up against the iron lattice work and to the ceiling, besides a large number in an irregular heap in the middle of the floor, leaving scant room to move around. The only way to get started in the count, so far as I could see, was to clear the floor by sending the contents to an unfinished vault overhead. Objection being made to this by the cashier, I adopted his suggestion and commenced to take from the center of the floor and piled on the stack at the end—this in order that we might then be enabled to empty a compartment, weigh and put the bags immediately back to the place from whence taken.

I reluctantly consented to this method because it would necessitate a double handling of every bag. As I predicted, however, the immense pile to which we were adding soon gave way and came tumbling all over the floor, carrying with it a large safe which stood in front, and nearly crushing two of the men. The only thing to do now was to adopt my original plan and send all of the bags on the floor to the upper room where they were allowed to remain until those in the bins were weighed, when they were brought down and piled as before. The unfinished vault I mentioned was safe enough for the temporary storage of silver, having double doors and good locks.

The lack of storage room for silver has become a very serious question with the assistant treasurer, who now has in his vault more than it can accommodate safely, and the receipts average from 12 to 20 bags daily while the payments are small.

Very respectfully,

H. A. WHITNEY.

HON. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER UNITED STATES,
San Francisco, Cal., January 13, 1883.

SIR: The great need of more vault room, and the time consumed in getting such wants supplied, prompts me to give you a brief statement of how the matter stands. Referring to my letter of December 16, 1881, you will observe what our condition then was; it is the same to-day, except there are nearly 4,000,000 of standard dollars stored outside of the vaults, protected by a thin brick wall on the sides, and temporary devices from below. This amount, together with that which is stored in the corridor of the old silver vaults, will nearly fill the new vault when it is completed; then wesh all be in the same predicament that we were something over a year ago, when I applied for more vault room. In view of the many delays incident to getting anything of this kind recommended and passed upon by Congress, and the time required for construction, I deem it advisable that some immediate steps be taken while this Congress is in session to secure more vault room.

There are 22,000,000 of standard dollars at the United States branch mint in this city

outside of the vaults, and after their new vault is filled, there will still be, with the accumulation, about this amount, and, as at present, practically unprotected.

There is no more available space, either at the United States branch mint building or at the sub-treasury building, for silver vaults, particularly is this the case at the sub-treasury building.

I therefore recommend that the matter be investigated, and that something be done to secure this much needed room as speedily as possible.

Very respectfully,

N. W. SPAULDING,
Assistant Treasurer United States.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, January 25, 1883.

SIR: In reply to your verbal inquiry I have the honor to report that, owing to the crowded condition of the silver vault in this office, it will not be possible to receive any standard silver dollars for storage here.

Very respectfully,

JAS. GILFILLAN,
Treasurer United States.

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

